

FERGUSON TOUCHES MINERS

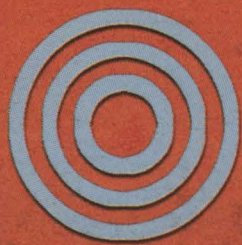
OOPS, WE MEAN TOUCHES "ON" MINERS P.15

BIG MOUTH!

SMALL VENUES P.13

ROLLING THUNDER

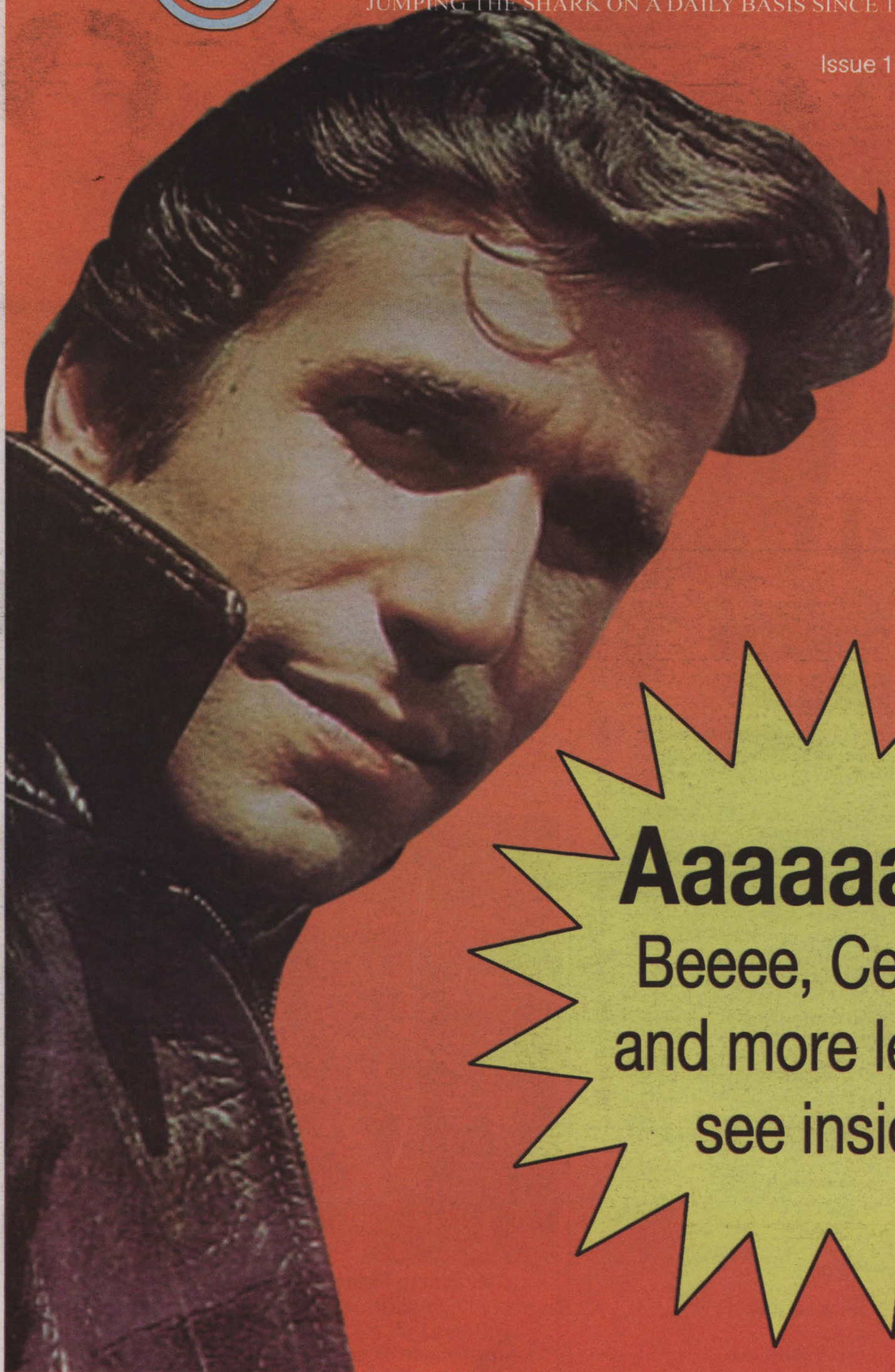
NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR B-BALL GOES BONZAI P.18



The Other Press

JUMPING THE SHARK ON A DAILY BASIS SINCE 1976

Issue 14 Vol 32 January 11, 2006



Aaaaaay...

Beeee, Ceeee,
and more letters,
see inside!

The Other Press
Published since 1976

Room 1020 – 700
Royal Avenue,
New Westminster, BC
V3L 5B2

Telephone: 604.525.3542
Fax: 604.525.3505

Managing Editor
Colin "Optimus" Miley
othereditor@yahoo.ca

News Editor
Nicole "Starscream" Burton
opnewseditor@gmail.com

Opinions Editor
Brandon "Megatron" Ferguson
opinionssubmit@hotmail.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Iain "Soundwave" Reeve
aeditor@gmail.com

Features Editor
Kevin "Dinobot" Welsh
opfeatures@gmail.com

Sports Editor
Brian "Speedy" McLennon
mclennonb@douglas.bc.ca

Proofreader
Millie "Cybertron" Strom

Graphics
"Bumblebee" Blattmann
boomboomdarkroom@yahoo.ca

Layout
"Grimlock" Hargreaves
saraharmerstolemystereo@yahoo.com

Photography
Jen "Scourge" Aird

Web/I.T.
Ed "The Constructicon Western Stranger"
Keech other_press@shaw.ca

Distribution Manager
Derek "Brawn" Ungless

Office Manager
J.J. "Unicron" McCullough
wart_mamu@yahoo.com

Accountant
Alyona "Hot Shot" Luganskaya
tradexllc@hotmail.com

Columnists
Brandon "Skywarp" Ferguson
Kerry "Hubcap" Evans,
JJ "Mirage" McCullough,
Iain "Galvatron" Reeve

Illustrator
J.J. "Autobot" McCullough
wart_mamu@yahoo.com

External Relations
Kerry "Decepticon" Evans
kerryevans@shaw.ca

Contributors
Brando Ferguso, Kevin Lalonde, Iain Reeve,
Chris Sleightholme, Steph Smith, Vince Yim,
R. Buckminster Fuller

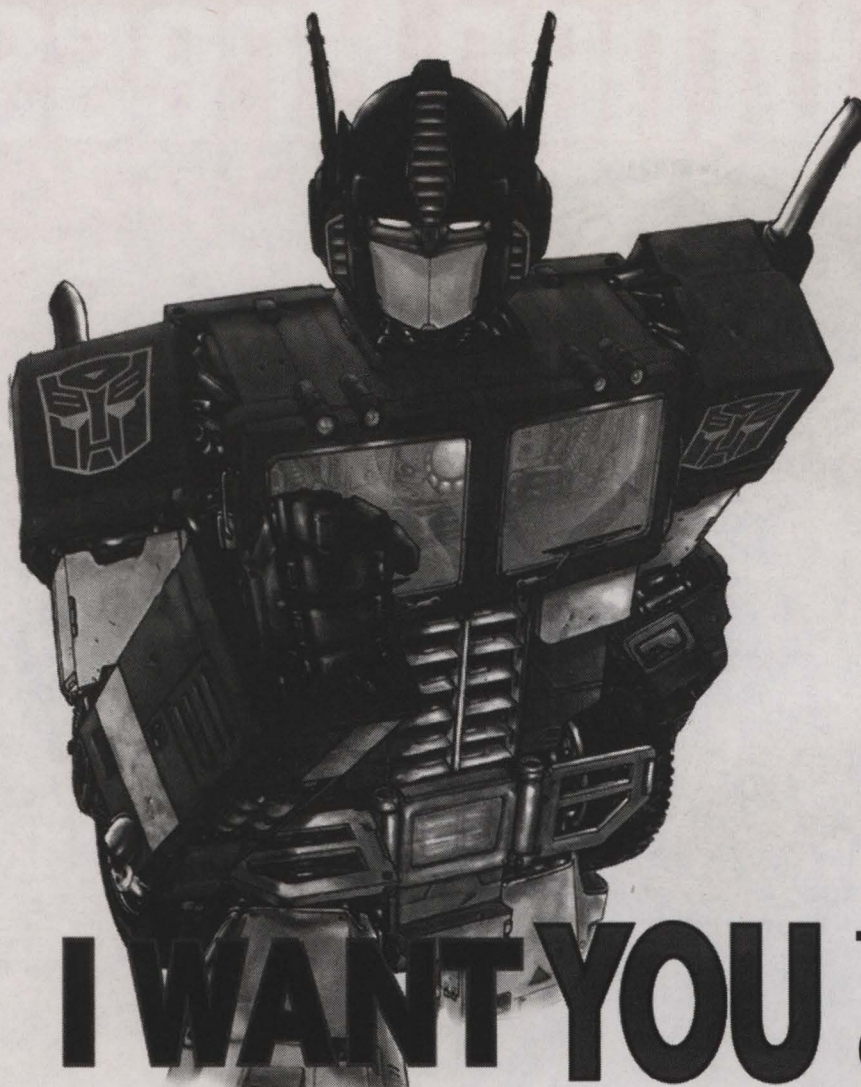
The Other Press is Douglas College's
autonomous student newspaper.

The Other Press is run by a collective and is
published weekly during the fall and winter
semesters, and monthly (as a magazine) dur-
ing the summer.

We receive our funding from a student levy
collected every semester at registration, and
from local and national advertising revenue.
The Other Press is a member of the Canadian
University Press (CUP), a cooperative of stu-
dent newspapers from across Canada. We
adhere to CUP's Statement of Common
Principles and Code of Ethics—except when
it suits us not to. The Other Press reserves
the right to choose what to publish, and will
not publish material that is racist, sexist, or
homophobic. Submissions may be edited for
clarity and brevity if necessary.

All images are copyright to their
respective owners. The Other Press is more
than meets the eye.

January 11, 2006



I WANT YOU

To write for the Other Press!

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The weekly deadline for submissions is
Wednesday for publication the following
Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sec-
tions, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend
news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be
accepted until Saturday noon and can be sub-
mitted to the editor at: othereditor@yahoo.ca

All other submissions should be forward-
ed to the appropriate section editor. Please
include your name, phone number/email
address, and word count, and submit via
email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the
attention of the appropriate editor.

The Other Press is run by a collective,
which means all decisions are reached via a
democratic voting process. Membership in
the voting collective is open to any person
who has contributed to at least two of three
consecutive issues. Those interested in join-
ing the Other Press collective should contact
the editor at othereditor@yahoo.ca

News
opnewseditor@gmail.com

Opinions
opinionssubmit@hotmail.com

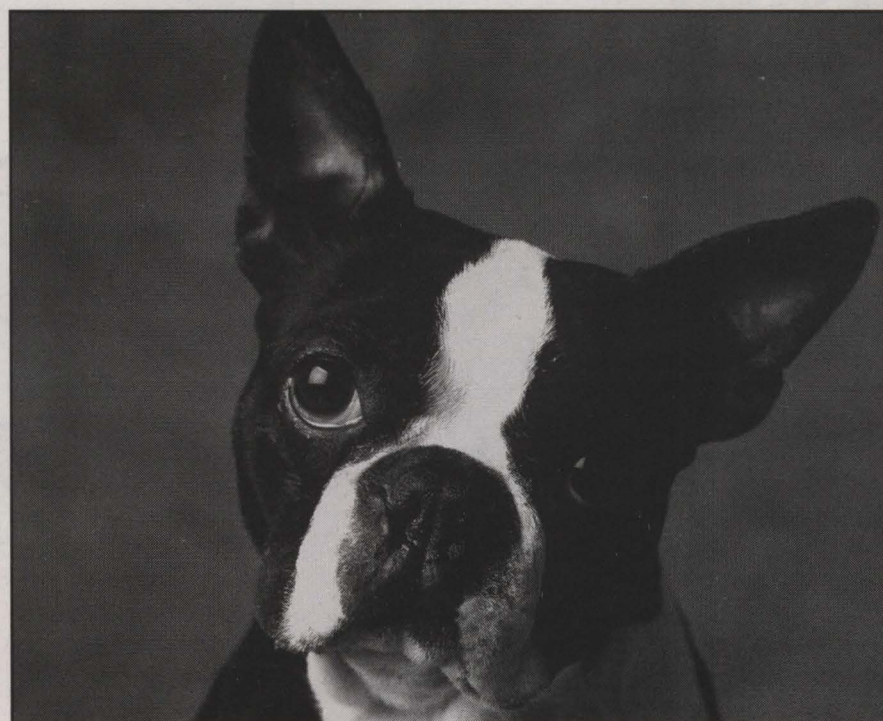
A & E
aeditor@gmail.com

Features
opfeatures@gmail.com

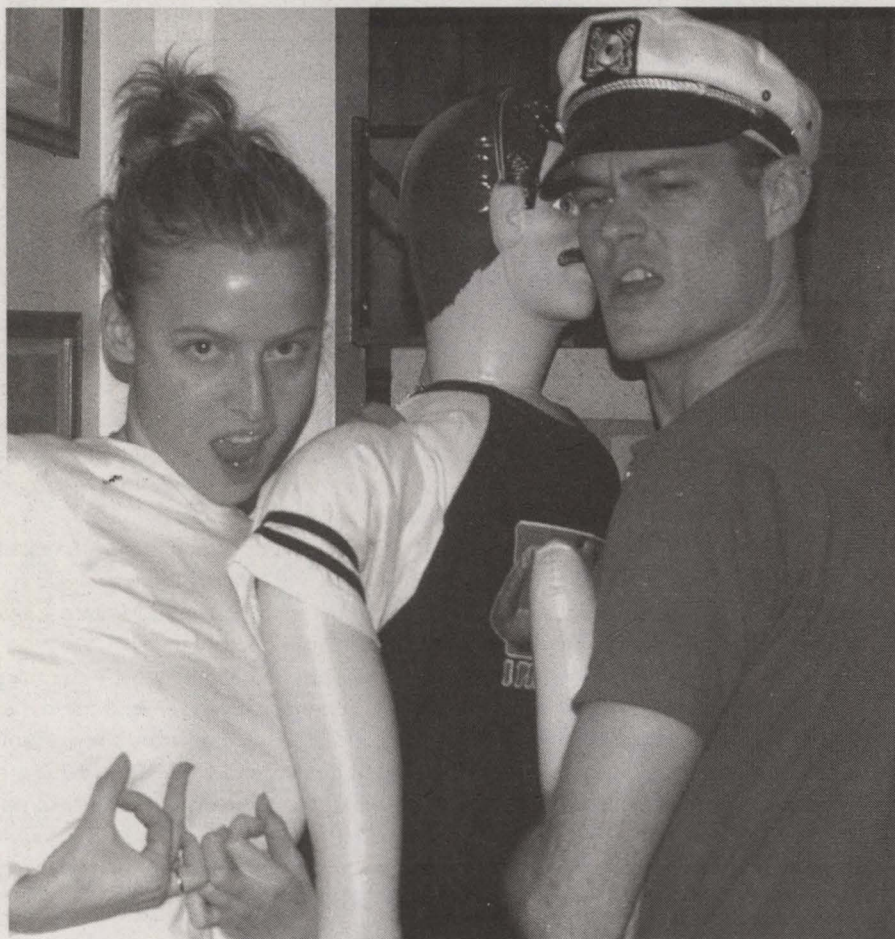
Sports
mclennonb@douglas.bc.ca

THE OP MUSIC CHARTS - Otherwise known as...
What we listened to during the creation of this issue:

Okkervil River—Don't Fall in Love with Everyone You See
Thrush Hermit—Clayton Park
Sufjan Stevens—Illinois
The Decemberists—Picaresque
Talking Heads—Fear of Music



**Congrats to Mitten, this weeks winner of the
prestigious Other Press employee of the week
Bowling Pulitzer for comfort, support, and snuggles
in a season of need.**



that you're previous belief systems were flawed and therefore wrong. Having belief systems requires firm beliefs. Firm beliefs are firm because we believe them to be correct (or at least correct-ish). Everyone has to believe in something. I believe most people do not have open minds. I also believe this paragraph is long overdue to end.

See what I mean about the masturbatory nature of rhetoric and argument without persuasion?

I don't take criticism well because I've lost my faith in most people to have the mental fortitude to change their belief systems if and when contradictory facts become accepted as "most likely true." Have I lost you yet? Don't feel

too bad if I have; I lost myself half way through that absurdly thick second paragraph. But I do have a point: If you wish to criticize someone or something, please ensure that you have at least some flimsy basis for what you're purporting. Also, don't be afraid to point out a solution to the problem should said problem become mutually perceived.

I hate it when someone logically convinces me that a problem exists only to answer the obvious next question—"Well, what should we do instead?"—with a magnanimous "Uhhhh...hmmm. Good question."

That's as stupid as getting so hopped up on the goofballs that you end up passing clean-ass out on 10:30 on New Year's Eve.

I'm not saying don't approach me with criticism, far from it. I'm simply saying that if you come prepared to change my mind, please be prepared to change yours if I turn out to be right.

Speaking of right, you know that starting your new semester off with a spine-tingling Other Press is the right thing to do. And like Sloan said, "If it feels right do it..."

And you're definitely going to want to "do it" with News this week. It's got "Pride," Irving Layton, and elections hullabaloo, not necessarily in that order.

Don't worry though, Opinions will hold you, caress you, and ask you about what it is you love to do. You'll go from anti-Emo to pro-Kyoto, all while a couple of left and right forks try to spoon.

A&E is the consummation of that crush you've been harbouring. It's got Big Mouth's music, Vince Yim's comics, and my favourite kind of self promotion: shameless self promotion.

Features may as well be called "Barry White's Sweet-ass Baritone Voice" this week, because it's going to let you readers know you're loved. And Iain Reeve is going to do that by jumping the shark and singling out *The Simpsons*, all in the name of describing the downfall of *Happy Days*.

By this point you're probably thinking Sports is going to try and pull some "frat-house crap" by getting you drunk and offering you a neck massage. Well, you'd only be half right. You'll be drunk on the sweet verbiage of Brian McLennon and his update from the world of wheelchair basketball.

So turn the lights down low, light the candles, and fire up the hi-fi, you're about to travel down the tunnel of love with the first OP of the New Year. Sweet dreams, mia Cara.

—Colin Miley, Managing Editor

It has recently resurfaced that I do not take criticism well. It's true, I don't; but not for obvious reasons.

The main reason I often don't take criticism well is simple: I feel that argument without the opportunity to persuade is simply theatre. It's overindulgent at best and totally worthless at worst. But persuasion requires more than excellent rhetoric; it requires an open mind. And open minds are quick to close at the first threat of danger. Admitting you're wrong is dangerous. Changing your mind requires at least the hint

TRANSFORMER OF CONTENTS



News 4



Opinions 6



A&E 8



WTF 19



Features 14

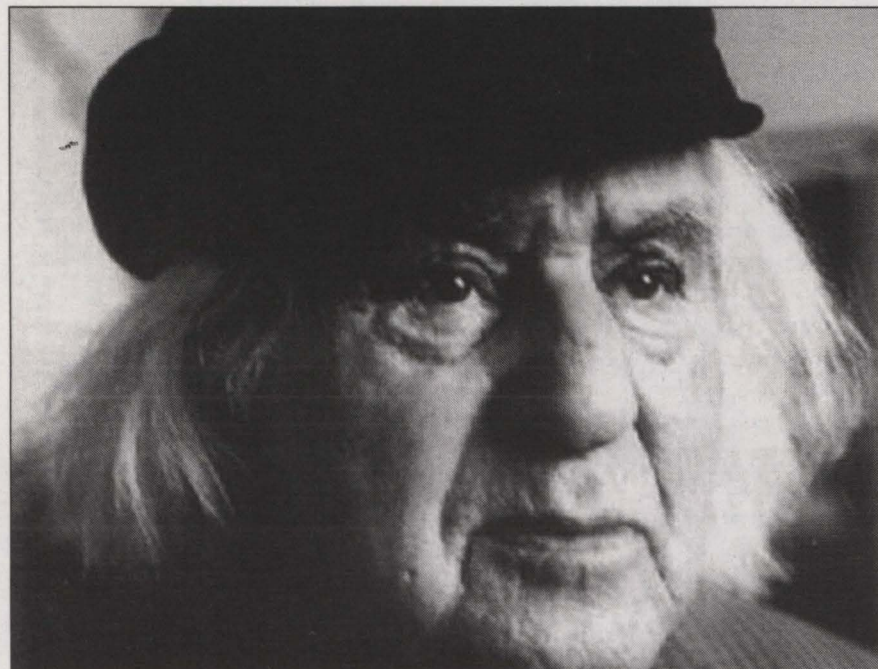


Sports 18

Irving Layton Dies at 93

Poet and teacher passed away as a literary icon in Canada

Nicole Burton, News Editor



Well-known East Coast poet Irving Layton ended his 12-year battle with Alzheimer's disease last week, passing away at the age of 93. Layton was renowned for reinventing the literary landscape in 20th century Canada, particularly in the realm of poetry and creative writing.

Layton's family settled in Quebec from Romania, and he grew up in the densely populated and rapidly industrializing city of Montreal. Kicked out of high school for his political ideas as a teenager, Layton's rise in poetry came from the harsh life of living poor in the city. Expressing his ideas through writing stuck with him for more than 70 years.

As he grew in prominence across Canada, he began to step out of the limited and academic world of literature and into political discussion and public life. He

became known as "Mr. Fighting Words" on CBC Television, slamming government officials and policies and gaining international recognition. His work became more popular and was widely read across Italy, Germany, Spain, and South Korea.

Layton taught for a number of years at Concordia and tenured as a professor at York University. He taught Modern English and American poetry.

Over his lifetime, he wrote more than 40 books and was awarded several prestigious titles, including a nomination for the Nobel Prize in literature in 1982. One of his most famous quotes is not without his own notorious self-indulgence: "I am a genius who has written poems that will survive with the best of Shakespeare, Wordsworth, and Keats."

Federal Elections Scrapbook

The two top parties duke it out—with little to offer

Nicole Burton, News Editor



Since the fall of the Liberals' minority government in November 2005, the road to a winter election has led to, what some are referring to as, a "Battle of the Billions" between the major political parties—promising measures related to education, jobs, immigration, and taxes. While there is legally no guarantee that binds officials to their election promises once they are in office, the flurry of fiscal pledges continues to fly.

In a desperate attempt to raise the percentage of young voters above 25 percent, some specific offerings are actually directed towards us! Despite this, the positions of both political parties leading in the polls have young people unimpressed on a number of issues. Here are some of the important topics being discussed as the countdown to January 23rd continues.

This week, the Liberals announced reductions in tuition fees for post-secondary students across Canada, including a total of \$7 billion towards tuition relief and job training. Prime Minister and Liberal leader Paul Martin has stated that this would result in a financial aid package of as much as \$3000 over four years for low-income students. Money is also being allocated towards the quality of education: \$3.5 billion for "skills development," and colleges and universities would have access to \$1 billion for building construction and renovations.

Student leaders are saying that if the Liberals expect to see student support, they're simply barking up the wrong tree. Many contend that the amount of money being "given" to students doesn't add up to the amounts students have had to unrightfully fork over in the last decade.

"Students are still worse off under the Liberal plan today than they were when the Liberals formed government in 1993," said George Soule, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

"By not restoring billions of dollars in core funding that was cut during the 1990s, the Liberal Party's strategy falls short."

The Conservative Party has generally maintained its position as the least popular party in Canada among students and young voters, particularly for its position on

same-sex marriage, the creation and tightening of immigration laws, and the push for military spending.

On January 5th, Steven Harper announced a package of new plans encompassing "a broad series of justice reforms." This would include increases in prison sentences and punishment against young people through the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and stripping away even more security from immigrants and refugees communities who face deportation.

While a major campaign promise is the reduction of GST from 7 to 5 percent, the Conservatives have promoted further increases to the Canadian military budget, already set to double from 2005's Federal Budget. In a recent report prepared for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, the Polaris Institute has stated that this increase is "alarming" and unmatched in Canada's history of military spending since the WWII years.

The Report states that "The Government of Canada should conduct a full, public review of Canadian defense policy and freeze further spending increases pending the outcome of that review."

This week, Elections Canada is beginning its publicity push for students and youth to show up at the polls. A total of 347 polling stations have been placed on or near university and college campuses around the country, according to Chief Electoral Officer of Canada Jean Pierre Kingsley, "to serve students and other electors who reside in those particular polling divisions."

Aside from posters and election guides, you can find more information on voting and Election Day employment opportunities at www.elections.ca.

Welcome back from the DSU Pride Collective!

Chris Sleightholme, DSU Pride Collective Volunteer



Time flies, doesn't it? Weren't we all just finishing up with final exams and getting ready for the holidays, and now we're finding ourselves waiting in lineups at the Registrar's Office and the bookstore in a mad dash for another semester of stress and creative budgeting. Well, do we have good news for you! The Pride Resource Centre and its band of merry volunteers have planned several events this month to distract and educate outside of the classroom.

Federal Election 2006 All Candidates Forums

Wednesday, January 11 (New Westminster-Coquitlam Riding) from 12 to 2pm in the Main Concourse at the New Westminster Campus; Thursday, January 12 (Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam Riding) from 12 to 2pm in the Atrium at the David Lam Campus.

Okay, we didn't really plan the all candidates forums, but we thought students, staff, and faculty should attend to ask federal candidates burning questions of the day, and seek commitments from them on such things as safeguarding equal marriage (same-sex marriage) and entrenching transgendered individuals' rights in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Many of you will remember that in late November 2005, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper said he would hold a free vote to repeal same-sex marriage immediately following the election, once he becomes Prime Minister. According to a Toronto Star survey conducted in 2004, only 20 percent of Conservatives supported same-sex marriage, whereas 80 percent supported civil unions rather than the legal definition of marriage. Though same-sex marriage legislation was adopted in June 2005 and overwhelmingly supported by Canadians, the threat to queer rights will continue due in large part to the Members of Parliament we elect on January 23. No matter whom you vote for, keep your elected representatives accountable to the public!

Did you hear about Bill C-392, introduced by MP Bill Siksay in May 2005? Bill C-392 proposes to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include "gender identity" and "gender expression" to ensure that transgendered people are protected from discrimination. The amendment proposal serves to follow up on the Canadian Human Rights Act Review Panel's one-year consultation process conducted in 2000, which unanimously recommended that the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to protect transgendered people from harassment and discrimination. Concerned voters

should make efforts to seek commitments from their candidates that amendments to the Act are a priority.

Pride Collective Meeting

Wednesday, January 11 from 2 to 4pm in room 328 of the Students' Union Building at the New Westminster Campus. The Pride Collective meets every Wednesday to discuss issues on campus, the creation and implementation of new campaigns to raise awareness and visibility of the queer community, the improvement of services, and to catch up on gossip (that's my favorite part). All lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and allied students are welcome to attend.

Pride Resource Centre Drop-In Hours

The Pride Resource Centre is open for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and allied students on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 5pm in room 328 of the Students' Union Building (SUB). Check out our library of books, videos, and magazines to research queer issues, or hang out and chat. Look out for Yasmin though; she'll make you cut up stickers for her, or help fold pamphlets.

Queer Social

Wednesday, January 25 from 12 to 4pm in room 328 of the SUB at the New Westminster Campus.

Join members of the queer and allied community at Douglas College for a free lunch, scintillating conversation, and an opportunity to meet new friends and visit the Pride Resource Centre.

That's all we have for you this week, friends, but check in within the next two weeks and we'll have more for you about Pink Triangle Week.

Ontario PSE Minister Tackles Tuition Freeze

Amy Chung and Mike Sitayeb

TORONTO (CUP)—The burden of financially supporting post-secondary education in Ontario will be shifting decisively in a new direction later this month when the provincial government will be lifting the current tuition freeze.

In an interview with *Canadian University Press*, the minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Chris Bentley, discussed the pressing issues facing post-secondary education in Ontario.

While students are awaiting the formal announcement for the tuition freeze lift, Bentley expresses his optimism, stating it will improve quality and access for students, highlighting the \$6.2 billion teaching Higher Plan the provincial government will be allocating to counteract the freeze.

"The interesting thing about a tuition freeze is that it delivers exactly the same benefit to a rich student as it does to a poorer student. It improves neither quality nor accessibility," says Bentley.

According to Bentley, a freeze will not improve the quality in resources for students to obtain a strong foundation. He notes that the money Ontario is investing in the universities is to improve quality in areas such as student/faculty ratios, support for students with special issues and to improve access to educational resources like libraries, research and computer resources that have not been improved.

In provinces like Quebec, where tuition has been consistently frozen for years, Bentley says students con-

tinually receive a lower quality education.

"There have been quite a few observations coming out of Quebec, by Quebecers, that the continued low tuition is not assisting the province to meet the demand for high quality programming," says Bentley.

"We're not going to force anybody to increase tuition. The point is that if you want to increase quality and accessibility, a tuition freeze won't do that. Like it or not, (quality) costs money," he adds.

However, not everyone agrees that a freeze lift would be beneficial.

"Trying to separate quality and accessibility is a problem," says the president of the Canadian Federation of Students, Jesse Greener. "Quality of education and experience takes a hit when students have to reconcile their work and school duties to pay for higher tuition costs."

"The issue of quality and experience scales increasingly negatively down the income brackets. Students from families, who are in the lower income brackets suffer disproportionately, accumulate debt and work harder to pay for tuition."

Bentley says that surveys like the National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE) will not be a primary measuring tool for the government to allocate funding to universities, with accountability agreements to be signed by universities to receive part of the recent \$211 million for quality improvement.

"I think it is helpful to figure out where you fit in

the system...from our perspective, what we want to do is obtain as much information as possible about where institutions are at the moment. Unless you know where you are at, it's tough to figure out where you want to get to," says Bentley.

"Surveys such as the NSSE, give us one measure to be able to do that...I don't think the intention of the survey should be to put everybody on a survey, match their score and then give out funding," he adds.

With the two-year tuition freeze ending in September 2006, many students are lobbying for a freeze extension, but Bentley reassures that there will be no difference without the freeze as there will be continued post-secondary funding.

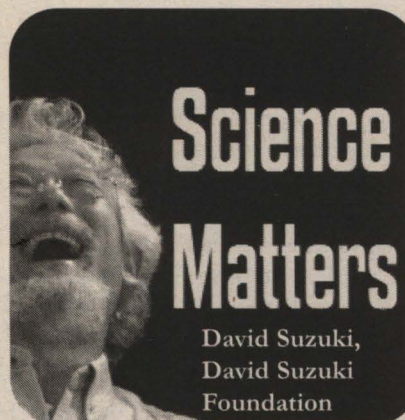
"In order to maintain the freeze for the second year, it's costing us \$150 million. The freeze is ending this year, but that investment does not end. We have to pay \$150 million next year, and \$150 million the year after and \$150 million every single year until the end of time, just to hold back the price for these two years," says Bentley.

The minister states that the freeze has been good these past two years, but it is not a good long-term strategy.

"It's easy to cut the cost of education, you can do it in a heartbeat...but nobody really wants that," he adds.

"This government, against all odds, is determined to increase tuition fees," argues Greener.

See change in environmental understanding



The New Year is often considered a time to reflect on the past and look ahead to see what's coming in the near future. Over the holidays, I had time to reflect on some recent events and I think what's coming next may be "good for the environment."

Why the quotation marks? Well, early in December, I spent a week in Montreal for the international climate negotiations. It was an amazing experience and I was fortunate enough to be able to speak with a wide variety of people, from delegates and dignitaries, to business leaders and citizens on the streets.

It was a busy time. There were peaceful protests and rallies. There were tough discussions behind closed doors.

There were holdouts and those who attempted to derail negotiations. There were even a few confused souls standing out on street corners, handing out pamphlets insisting that global warming was some sort of hoax. Yes, the conference had a little of everything.

But I also experienced something I didn't expect—a sense of common purpose, a recognition of just how serious climate change really is. And the beginnings of a recognition that it's not really an environmental problem at all.

That certainly wasn't the case in 1997 at the negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol. While delegates from most countries at that conference went to Kyoto to look for ways to solve the growing international problem of global warming, Canada, the US, and a few others went in with the attitude that it was all a trade negotiation—as though the point was to haggle for the lowest possible commitment and the largest number of loopholes.

The 2005 conference in Montreal was very different. Yes, there were still those seeking the best deals, and some countries tried to prevent progress, but this time Canada played an important role. And rather than hinder progress, many industry groups sought to bring people together and get a strong commitment from our political leaders.

Consider this: in Montreal, we actually had some of the world's largest corporations attending and asking governments to set targets and timelines to help them reduce climate pollution. Suddenly this little "environmental" problem was on their radar screens as a priority—and an

opportunity. Does this mean that we have turned the corner to a new global consciousness? Or that in 2006 we will finally see an energy revolution away from fossil fuels towards sustainable energy sources?

For now, that's just wishful thinking. Such a transition will take a long time indeed. Together, the people of our little planet consume tens of thousands of litres of oil every second. It simply boggles the mind to think about how thoroughly embedded we are in a fossil-fuel culture. But fossil fuels aren't our only sources of energy, and energy, not necessarily oil, is what our economy needs.

So our oil-dependent culture will be around for a while, but the change we are seeing in worldview right now is vital if we are to adequately address global environmental challenges. What we are finally seeing is the recognition that environmental problems are not things that occur out there, in the environment. The environment is not a place we go for boating in the summer and for skiing in the winter. The environment is our home and we are a part of it. That means environmental problems are social and economic problems too.

It also means climate change is not an environmental problem. It's a human problem, and one that will affect all facets of our lives. Given this reality, the old line of doing something because "it's good for the environment" seems almost quaint and outdated. Solving global environmental challenges isn't good for the environment; it's good for us.

B Sides: Why Tickle Me Emo's Just Another Fad

Brandon Ferguson, Opinions Editor

Having spent my New Year's festivity with a number of cool kids who, by a misfortune beyond their control, are very much Emo kids, I couldn't help but revisit King Emo Kevin Lalonde's piece from last semester. In it, he offered a humorous piece of emotherapy for those who don't quite care for soft and whiny "why me" music. Here are some hard rock thoughts on the matter.

While reading Lalonde's poignantly pedantic piece on why Emo music rules and Top-40's for fools, I couldn't help but feel this welling rage towards, and an overwhelming sadness for, the Emo boys and girls out there. Actually, scratch the Emo girls—they're funky and fine and wear neat accessories. But the Emo boys, oh boy, are you buttheads boobs of the most banal breed.

Here's my gripe with you: you're so subversively anti-pop and so overtly off the map that you fickle fucks don't even realize you're bigger consumerism whores than any Top-40 lap dog out there.

When I measure consumer whoredom, it's always in relation to the want/need ratio—how much you want that purse versus how much you need that Prada purse. Now, from what I've gleaned from the Emo boys I know and love—and let it be known that I'm infatuated with Lalonde and am reserving my last ever gay experience for the boy with the blonde bramble bush locks—the Emo experience is supposed to be all about the old axiom of "if it feels good, do it," even if lacking in general consensus or dreaded popularity.

However, as soon as an Emo band makes it big they become somehow depreciated. It's only a matter of minutes before Death Cab for Cutie becomes an albatross of bad taste (even if their new album *Plans* is brilliantly decadent—not as much as *Transatlanticism*, of course, but Beethoven could rise from the dead tomorrow and never pen a better album than DCC's 2003 effort). Which is bullshit. It's anti-Emo. It's rebelling because it becomes popular, and therefore, somehow distasteful, even if it feels good listening to. No wonder we're all a bunch of punk students mired in debt and wallowing in apathy. If an anti-establishment movement ever gained ground it'd become popular and promptly fall on its face...because being popular is bad.

Please, Emo geeks; please crawl out of the lockers the jocks stuffed you in and reclaim your will to do what you want, not what all the other individual clones are doing.

And if you needed further proof that Emo kids are nothing more than plagiarized Pop-40 pukes, which you probably do because my case thus far is Scott Weiland-thin, then look to the creepy lameness with which these Emoks chronologically list how great their bands are. You can listen to Sufjan Stevens' "breathtaking musical endeavour of the year" or "the heroes of last year, The Walkmen." Do you know who you sound like, oh Emo-Wan Kenobi? You sound like freaking Joan Rivers or Jo-Jo gabbing about Ashley Judd's red carpet disaster, you menstrual mental midgets.

I've been bloody fortunate to have some non-snotty Tickle Me Emo buds open my eyes to some great bands: The Decemberists, DCC, Interpol, Wolf Parade, Earlimart, Okkervil River, etc. But there are other Emo squits out there probably snickering because Interpol isn't a quote-unquote Emo band. Well, shit stain, calm yourself before your mother's milk comes shooting out your nose—and thanks for proving my point, dork.

Perhaps my biggest beef with Emo kids is when they support a band that they should've known would suck if given a spotlight. Franz Ferdinand comes to mind.

While championing this boy band meets Duran Duran musical miscarriage, didn't any one of you pricks ever notice that they fucking blow? No. They were a well coordinated, funky fresh twist on rock n' roll's je ne sais quoi blah blah blah. Don't listen to Puddle Theory of a NickleFault because their lyrics are sooo rudimentary and unrefined? What part of repeating "Do you want to" a hundred times to a Special Olympian's drum beat as four nerds crash through an art gallery in matching Thriller outfits, deeply upsetting metaphors of social elitism and high brow art alike, comes across as especially gifted?

Nothing? Oh right; Franz Ferdinand is popular now so you've disowned them.

At least Nickleback proved that they could string more than four words together while making it big on the back of two guitar lessons. Count in time with me: This...is...how...you...remind...me. See? Six words. That makes

continued on pg 9

Reflections on the Election in Canada



Right Hook

JJ McCullough, OP Columnist

Well exams are over, Christmas is over, boxing day is over, and now New Year's Eve is over. Amidst all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season you can be excused for having overlooked that other thing that recently concluded—the 2005 phase of the federal election campaign. It's too bad, really, because amid all the studying, shopping, and boozing, some very interesting political developments were happening in the background.

Here are my reflections on what's transpired over the last couple of weeks:

1) The Conservative Party (CPC) has waged a really, really good campaign. Even among the most jaded analysts there seems to be little denial about this. Since day one, the conduct of the CPC has greatly exceeded the low expectations everyone had for them. Whereas pundits predicted an excessively angry Conservative campaign—dominated by constant bitching about the

Sponsorship mess and little else—Harper et al have instead surprised many with their consistently upbeat, heavily policy-driven campaign. Thanks to the party's clever “policy-a-day” scheme, the CPC has successfully and repeatedly dominated the Canadian news cycle with a flurry of clear, attractive proposals which have in turn done a great deal to help re-brand the party's image. No longer the scary party with the vague hidden agenda, the Conservatives can now be clearly defined as the party of GST cuts, an elected Senate, and a \$1,200 baby bonus, among other things. Such keystone policies are conservative in ideology, but also primarily populist in their appeal. In other words, precisely the sort of politics that can convert the undecided.

2) The media has been fair. That's one sentence I didn't expect to be typing, but alas, it's true. This obviously may change as the weeks progress, but to date I can honestly say that, for the most part, the mainstream outlets of the Canadian press (the CBC, *The Globe and Mail*, etc.) have not been nearly as biased in their election coverage as one would have expected going in.

Part of this, of course, is simply due to point number one. The Conservatives have done a great job getting their campaign messages out early (often through morning press conferences), and, as a result, have successfully managed to get their messages to dominate the headline-hungry news cycle for much of the previous month.

The Liberals, by contrast, have been relegated to the role of defensive reactionaries, sought out by

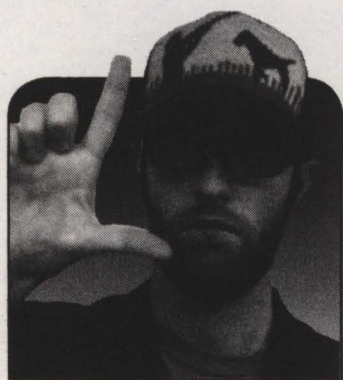
reporters only after the latest Conservative declaration and asked to justify the embattled status quo—not a position most candidates are comfortable in. Such defenses have often been badly bungled—the “beer and popcorn” declaration of Paul Martin's communications director being the most infamous. But in general, the Liberals have never come off looking too hot when the Prime Minister is forced into a corner explaining why the GST should be preserved or why Canadians should not be allowed to elect their own senators.

There have been no overblown stories about out-of-context quotations from obscure CPC party bureaucrats, few attempts to dig up dirt on Harper's past, and far fewer of the once-common headlines where Conservatives are implicitly assigned all sorts of negative characteristics. “Tories Struggle to Abandon Redneck Bigot Image,” for instance. Neutral reporting should be the rule, not the exception, yet in Canada this has sadly not been the case. The fact that we appear to be witnessing something of a fundamental change in this regard can thus mean one of two things: either the Liberals have become increasingly indefensible, even among their traditional media allies, or this is merely the calm before the storm.

3) Lastly, despite the fact that the planets seem to be aligning in the Conservatives' favour, we have seen little reflection of this in the polls. As I write this, the *National Post* is proclaiming “Tories Take the Lead.” But upon closer investigation, this so-called lead is at best a 2–3 percentage point sliver, well within most

continued on pg. 9

Blogsmack! Parties dig their own graves via Internet



Left Overs

Iain Reeve, OP Loser

Wowza! What a little election we have ourselves here. It's hard to decide what to write about when one comes back after a month off in the middle of a crazy campaign, but there is one trend I have certainly noticed.

Blogs have become a big part of any modern election campaign. Besides being a good posting board where major candidates can let their faithful know which rural farm or city center they will be visiting, blogs let us get to know our candidates and party staff on a more personal level. We get to see all the little goods, bads, and uglies that define our candidates as people rather than political campaigning machines.

There is a brutal honesty that often occurs in blogs that you just won't find anywhere else. This is exactly why party hacks are no doubt cursing their existence during this campaign.

The Liberals have had the most self-inflicted damage done by their bloggers thus far. The Executive Vice President of the Ontario wing of the party, on his personal blog, made some pretty wicked comments about Jack Layton and his wife, fellow NDP candidate Olivia Chow. While Jacky boy got off easy, being called an asshole, a picture of Olivia was placed beside a picture of a chow-chow dog with the tagline “separated at birth?” Yikes! Of course, the Liberal spin machine was quick to point out that a personal blog does not reflect the views of the Liberal party, but the media was damning nonetheless.

The second shot was made by, of all people, Jamie Elhirst, president of the Liberals in BC. On his campaign blog he posted that industry minister David Emerson claimed Jack Layton had a “boiled dog's head smile.” What's with all the NDP bashing? Poor Jack must be just dousing his hotel pillows with tears nightly.

Add to this one “beer and popcorn” fiasco and one Conservative campaign manager who claimed he and his associates in Alberta would move towards separation should the Liberals win (good riddance?), and we may soon see “Loose Lips Sink Ships” posters up beside those of leader's mugs in campaign offices from the

Pacific to the Atlantic. As with everything in politics, honesty seems to ruin everything.

Well for all the people crying bloody murder over these incidents, I have three words: get over it. Take the beer and popcorn incident, for instance. A Liberal stooge claims that some parents would use the Conservative child-care rebate on things besides child-care, like beer and popcorn, and suddenly fire is falling from the sky. The fact is some parents, like everyone else, are losers and will spend any coin they can squeeze out of their kids on anything but their kids. I don't get all up in arms when a new youth crime initiative gets announced. I don't claim the parties are calling all youth criminals; they're claiming some are and that something should be done about it.

In a political age where honesty and frankness have given way to spin, false representation, prepared speeches, and question dodging, I respect anyone who will go out and give an honest opinion, pretty or ugly. While I do not condone senseless name calling—that's not proper political discourse—more parties and candidates need to fearlessly state their true feelings.

Mama Reeve always said honesty is the best policy; she never said anything about an exemption for politics. That kind of stuff got me grounded, so maybe we should start grounding politicians who don't do the same.

Smith & Reeve at the Movies: The Producers

Iain W. Reeve and Steph Smith, A&E Editor

Down on his luck Broadway theatre producer Max Bialystock (Nathan Lane) finds his last hope at financial success in the musings of neurotic accountant Leo Bloom (Matthew Broderick), who insists that a stage flop could make more money than a hit. The two head off to find the worst script, director, and actors in the city to manufacture the biggest flop in stage history: *Springtime for Hitler*. Based on the musical based on the film.

Reeve:

Some aspects of this film made me very excited. We're talking a Mel Brooks penned musical with a wicked funny cast and a story that has already proven itself as comic gold. However, being both a remake, my least favourite trend in modern film, and an adaptation of a musical, my second least favourite trend in film, I had my share of hesitations. But let me tell you, moviegoers, this is a solid film with laughs-a-plenty.

Obviously, the first thing one wants to know about the musical is what the music is like. While by no means groundbreaking or astounding, the music does its job perfectly. From the clever lyrics of such songs as "We Can Do It," to the wicked genius of "Keep it Gay," and the grandiose wonder that is "Springtime for Hitler" and "Heil Myself," the audience will walk away remembering the lyrics, staging, sets, and costumes more than they will the music. Though some of the tunes are darn catchy, like any good musical.

Speaking of sets and costumes, this is the one place where musicals take a big step up on the big screen. The big budget glitz allowed this musical within a musical to really take off. The sets are fantastic; the costumes, especially the gayest Nazis you've ever seen, are hilarious.

And what a solid cast. Nathan Lane is his usual unscrupulous self and Broderick comes close to the impossible task of living up to Gene Wilder in the role of Leo Bloom. The supporting cast includes Uma Thurman's

silly and sexy turn as Swedish actress-to-be Ulla, Will Ferrell as Hitler-loving writer Franz Liebkind, scene-stealer Gary Beach as director, and stage Hitler, Roger De Bris, is splendid. Not to mention cameos by John Lovitz, Dom DeLuise and others. Lastly, you just can't say no to an ensemble that includes Nazis, old ladies, beleaguered accountants, and prancing prisoners.

This is a must see and may have a shot come Oscar time. Better than *Chicago*, *Rent*, or any of these other silly musical adaptations, *The Producers* brings an outstanding plot and barrels of huge laughs to play with a wicked ensemble of music and dance. Solid fare for all!

Smith:

The 1965 Gene Wilder version of *The Producers* is one of my favourite movies of all time. It is so absolutely hysterical, it brings me to tears every time I watch it. So imagine my shock when I heard that they were re-adapting it in movie form. Now, I am always a little frightened of remakes since so many tend to crash and burn. *Godzilla* or *Planet of the Apes* anyone? They are painful and they rarely live up to their originals. *The Producers* was originally turned from a movie into a play. The play was a success and the movie based on the play that was based on a movie based on a play is set to be a success as well.

I was a little leery of it because I was unsure that Matthew Broderick, one of my least favourite actors, could possibly pull off a Gene Wilder role without making me want to vomit. I was wrong. Very, very wrong. Not only did Broderick pull it off, he did so with style. He played off the original character's charm, but made it his own. His



hysteria was less frightening sociopath and more child having a temper tantrum. I was impressed. Somewhere he'd learned how to act in a film without making me feel an uncontrollable rage and hatred toward him. On top of that, Nathan Lane was hilarious and sleazy and scummy and charming all at the same time. He was wonderful, and the perfect portrayal of scam artist Max Bialystock.

However, the most shocking and well-played role of the film was that of playwright Franz Liebkind, played to perfection by Will Ferrell. He was just the right amount of nonsense and insanity to be able to pull off a character who had seriously written a play entitled *Springtime for Hitler*.

It should also be said that *The Producers* is a musical, so there is singing and dancing all throughout; but with songs like "Keep it Gay," "Der Guten Tag Hop-Clop," and the aforementioned "Springtime for Hitler," it is not your typical *Sound of Music* type musical. This one is funny. It's been a long time since I laughed so hard at a film in the theatre, but this was so much better than I had anticipated. I highly recommend *The Producers* to anyone who has ever seen the original, or likes hilarious comedy/musicals.

B Sides: continued from pg. 7



them exactly 33 percent more lyrically gifted than Franz Ferdinand. Do you—do you, do you—do you want to refute me?

Now I'm the first to admit that my musical inclinations are, at best, skewed—Duran Duran's *Ordinary World* is the most played song on my iTunes because it's the greatest trashy ballad ever. And as much as I'd love to see Beyoncé's booty inhale both Nickleback and Franz Ferdinand forever before imploding into itself, I can also dance my skinny white rump off to her and Jay-Z's fat ass beats in that girlfriend or boyfriend or casual fuck song they sing together.

Which is another thing that pisses me off about the self-righteousness of you Pope Emo the Turds: you geeks don't dance. Or, at least, you don't very often. With all your highfalutin poetry posturing, you've clearly nailed simple tempos on paper for sonnets sent to imaginary girlfriends, so why not meet a real girl in a real room, chat her up, ask her to dance, and move your knees and ass a little?

Ah yes, of course—the goal of any self-respecting Captain Emo is to stand alone amongst 20,000 geeks in a sea, hands in pocket, shuffling listlessly and shifting wistfully, eyebrow arched, appreciating the nuances of an otherwise unappetizing affair.

Psst! Come close...good. Sometimes...shh...sometimes I'm known to break a sweat at a concert. And guess

what? My vintage second-hand shirts still come out of the crowd and concert in tact.

All's I'm saying is this: get off your high horses and accept that all music is shitty to someone and a reason for living to another. Every song was written for a purpose; whether it was written for a polished pop princess to perform or as a pussy-whipped purge for a partner probably long gone, music's brilliant because it can conjure up memories and create moments anew. If you hear the same conversation told by the same friend more than twice, it gets old real quick. A song can't be burnt out, or if it is, you can try something new and return to it later. A band can fluctuate like the stock market or can plateau like the prairies—that's life, but musically so.

So, my alienated Emo friends; unfurl your fists and relax those noodles holding them to your undeveloped torso. Your tastes are far more refined than mine, but that doesn't mean you're better than me. It means you're nuanced and passionate about something, for which you have my respect. But if you ram down my throat how I'm somehow uncivilized or less evolved because I don't see a particular brilliance in a band, don't think for a moment that I won't slap on some Henry Rollins Band and kick your whiny little ass.

Shudder Think of the dark poems that'll inspire in you.

I found it on
teh interweb!



Iain W. Reeve,
Shamless Self-Promoter

This week's website:

The Other Press Online
www.theotherpress.ca

There is no greater reason, my friends, to have you own newspaper column than to promote you and your friends selflessly at all turns. Now, before you spit on the paper and toss it in the nearest recycle bin with disgust, just hear me out. There are plenty of good reasons to check out all your favourite OP stories online.

Besides snazzy design, access to full archives, and the ability to download months of back issues in PDF, the OP website is just a happening place to be. Ever get sick of Colin Miley's stupid looking sweaters in the Lettitor section, Brandon Ferguson's excessive potty mouth, or Iain W. Reeve's uppity film reviews? Tell them so on the comments section attached to each article. Want to contribute to a section or stalk your favourite OP staffer? Send us an email—they're all on the site.

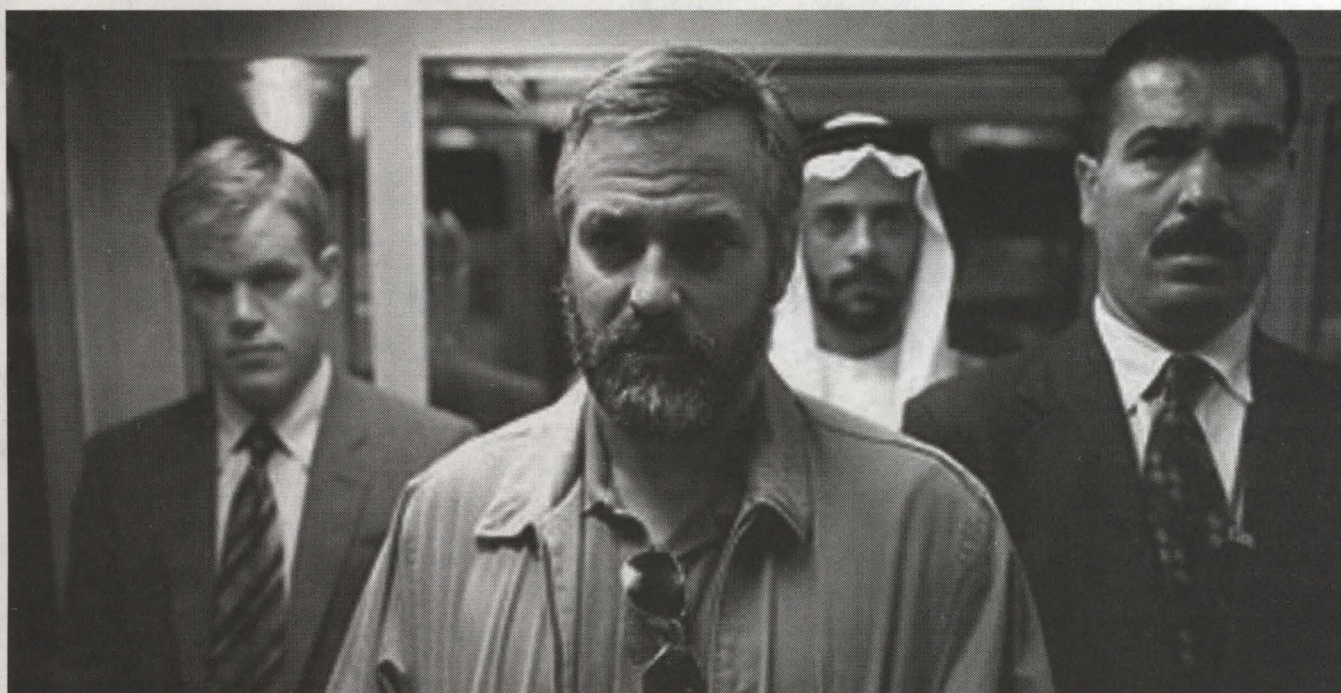
Also, as an added bonus, we have been known to occasionally put extra content, such as extended interviews too big for a silly piece of paper, online only! Also, it is just cooler to read the news online I think, especially if you do it in an internet café with pretty girls and a good cup of earl grey.

But let me tell you the best part. If you read "I Found it on the Interweb" online you will, unlike in the print version, be able to click on the links and be magically whisked away to this week's featured site. Wow! If you do that with this week's site you will be stuck in an infinite loop, a good way to spend a few hours if you ask me.

So now you can spit on this paper and throw it in the recycle bin and go run and check out our website. Do it now!

Syriana

Vince Yim, OP Oil Tycoon



As the price of oil teeters towards the dreaded \$100/barrel mark, threatening to destabilize the global economy and bring about the collapse of western civilization, forces are in place to maintain the oil security for Americans. However, as competition for oil supplies emerge, the struggle gets more and more desperate. This is important, as crude oil is utilized in every aspect of our lives, from transportation to food production. Oh, and by the way, we're starting to run out.

Syriana is likely the first film to address the oil industry in a serious context. Several stories are at work throughout the film: an energy trader (Matt Damon) who is overseeing the trading of drilling rights with a Gulf prince (Alexander Siddig) who would be the rightful heir to the throne, if not for the American support of his brother; a corporate lawyer (Jeffrey Wright) who is watching the merger of two American oil companies; a middle eastern oil rig worker (Mazhar Munir) who loses his job after the sale of his employee's oil company, then falls in with Islamic extremists and becomes a terrorist; and a CIA operative (George Clooney) who works to uncover the truth.

This might seem a bit overwhelming to the average moviegoer, as the unconventional plot structure makes this anything but typical popcorn fare. This is familiar territory for writer and director Stephen Gaghan, who tackled the drug trade in the Academy Award winning screenplay for *Traffic*. Under Gaghan's watchful eye, nothing is truly black or white, although things tend to get pretty black in this film. The oil industry is depicted as real-

ly dirty business, and the higher ups are willing to resort to murder to secure it. This is scary stuff, even more so than the average horror movie.

The performances are solid. George Clooney's depiction of CIA operative Bob Barnes (a real life CIA operative whose memoirs inspired the film) is tragic and complex. Matt Damon shines as the energy analyst who is torn between his family and his job, with tragedy threatening to tear it apart. Newcomer Mazhar Munir is surprising as the disenfranchised teenager who goes from oil worker to extremist over the span of the film.

The multilayered plot is intriguing, although it requires a lot from the audience. If you stop paying attention for a second (i.e. fall asleep) you will lose out on a lot. This film is definitely not recommended for the ADHD set, or for those just looking for mere entertainment. Certainly, the film is entertaining and the performances are engaging, but it's not the kind of film one can just sit back and relax with. To its credit, it never stops to spoon feed or pander to the audience. Hence, this is not a film for everyone.

But this is a good film and an important one as well, given the relevance of the subject matter to our lives. Highly politically charged, the film has the power to change public perception about the world we live in, and hopefully give the people in power a reason to change it for the better.

Right Hook: continued from pg. 7

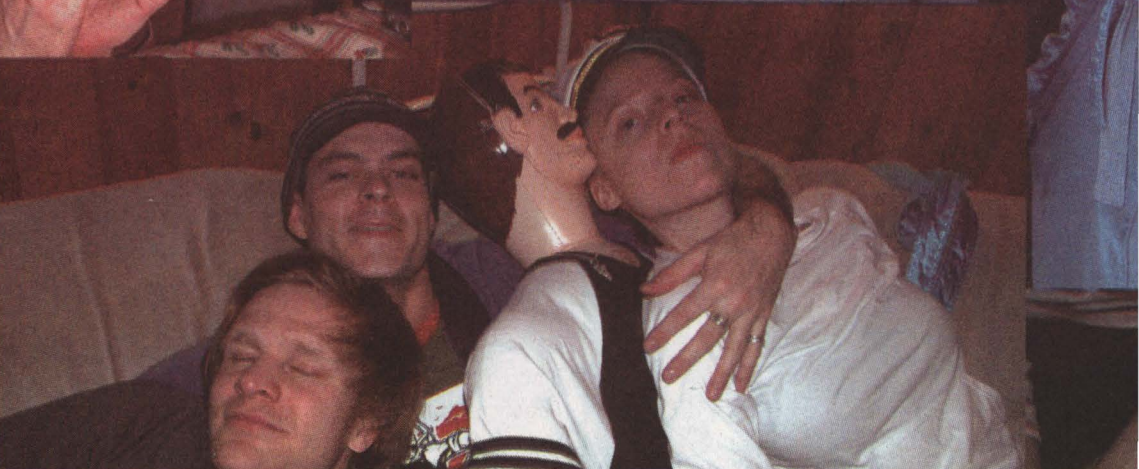
polls' margin of error.

Once again, there are a lot of possible explanations. My personal favorite is the theory that polls have simply outlived their usefulness. Something like 80 percent of Canadians refuse to answer telemarketers, while an increasingly high number simply use unlisted cell phones as their primary form of communications. Together, these two variables mean the traditional telephone poll's claim to fame—accuracy through randomness—is increasingly disintegrating due to modern lifestyle and demographic shifts.

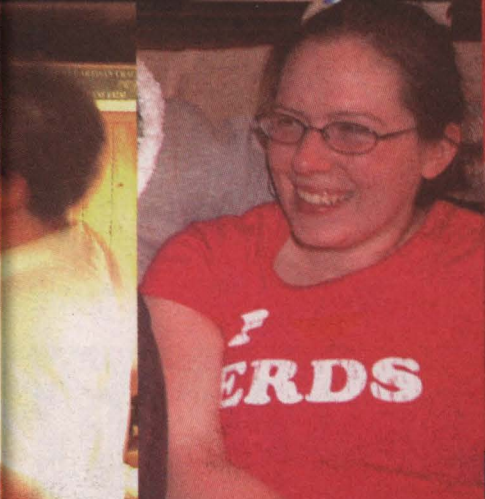
And then of course there are the other factors as well. There is still a high percentage of undecideds; people have been largely ignoring the campaign; committed partisans don't usually

swing until very late in the campaign, etc. Some people love to embrace the rigid logic of statistics to provide answers to all of life's uncertainties, but for the time being it appears Canada's polls are providing cold comfort to those seeking a mathematical understanding of what remains a very ambiguous campaign. Before the break, I wrote an angsty article in which I cynically assumed that the Liberal Party would be re-elected by Ontario on a wave of ignorant, anti-Western sentiment. That may still be the case, but certainly recent events have made that conclusion seem a lot less certain. Let's just hope I wasn't the only one paying attention.

Happy T



New Year!





Blast from the Past: Young Frankenstein

Iain W. Reeve, A&E Editor

Before *History of the World*, *Spaceballs*, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, and the horrible mess that was *Dracula: Dead and Loving It*, there was the magic year of 1974 when Mel Brooks wrote and directed two of the best comedies ever. The racially risqué *Blazing Saddles* and the utterly outrageous horror parody *Young Frankenstein*.

Based, of course, on the classic Boris Karloff era of Frankenstein films, *Young Frankenstein* follows the journey of Doctor Frederick Frankenstein, grandson of the psychotic Victor Frankenstein who attempted to create life from dismembered corpses. Journeying back to the laboratory where the horrid experiment took place, Frederick is drawn, at first unwillingly, down the same path as his grandfather to create life most unnatural. Doesn't sound funny? Well it is!

Like most Brooks films, this film relies on classic slapstick, running gags, sight gags, play on words, and clever timing. This is screen comedy in its purest form. But with a wide range of comedy that will ensure just about everyone will have at

least one or two good rolls on the floor, this is certainly one of Brooks' best.

The actors make the show, however. From Madeline Kahn's great turn as Fred's flippant lover Elizabeth, to his servants, Igor the hunchback with the moving hump and the very well endowed Inga, this is a solid cast. Special nod goes to Peter Boyle as The Monster, who is hilarious, terrifying, and even cute whenever the need arises. But, as with every film he is in, Gene Wilder steals the show. His comic genius is unparalleled. Whether he is spinning around a secret door bookcase, puttin' on the ritz, stabbing himself in the leg with a scalpel, or bringing a bunch of dead body parts to life, his energy, timing, and commitment is almost unequaled in comedy history.

If you like any Mel Brooks films, this is a must see. It is rivaled only by the original *The Producers* in its sheer comedic depth and frequency. If you hate Mel Brooks, give it a shot. You may be pleasantly surprised.

MACEWAN

Compassion. Understanding. Passion.

Child and Youth Care professionals build relationships that change lives. They're passionate about helping troubled youth and their families and believe everyone deserves a chance to reach his or her full potential.

Are you ready to reach your full potential?

At MacEwan, it's up to you. We give you the tools to make a real difference. You decide how you'd like to use them.

Graduate from MacEwan with a four-year Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree – the first of its kind in Alberta. Start at or transfer to MacEwan and prepare for advanced child and youth care practice or entry into graduate programs.

We're committed to providing real education for a real world.

Think MacEwan.

YOUR DEGREE, YOUR CHOICE.

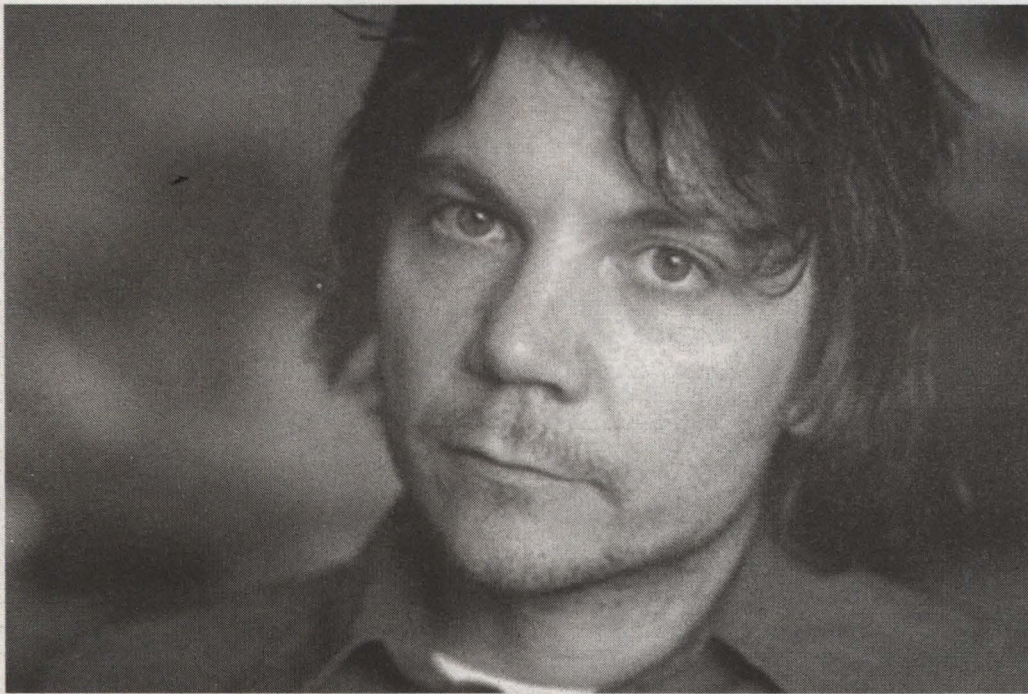
BACHELOR of CHILD and YOUTH CARE

Visit www.MacEwan.ca/cyc for details, or call (780) 497-4646.

www.MacEwan.ca

Bigmouth Strikes Again: Concert options to beat the January doldrums

Kevin Lalonde, Teenage Dirtbag



Nothing sucks more than January 1st, in my opinion. By now, all the turkey's been gobbled, the cookies crumbled, and all the booze's been drunk. It's as if all the fun of the holidays is over, and now everyone has to get their asses back to work or school or bed (if that's what you're into). But don't fret, because I have good news! If you thought that January was just a cold, shitty month of the year, you were right. But you can still have some fun.

Despite the winter cold and drear, you can still look forward to a couple of great shows this month. Coming up this Friday, local punk legends the Black Halos will be hitting the Media Club with guest Nim Vind. Don't ask me how much tickets are, because I don't care, because I don't really like punk. But I'll probably go anyway.

The very next day, local indie tunesters Love & Mathematics and recent CiTR SHiNDIG winners Romance (featuring members of newly-made Jagjaguwar-artists Ladyhawk) will be opening for Mint Records indie popstars Young & Sexy at the not-quite-world-famous Railway Club at Seymour and Dunsmuir. If you missed Mint's annual Xmas party this year (which was rad, by the way, suckers), you should definitely come check it out. Unless you're a privileged UBC student, in which case, you'll be at the Pit Pub seeing the Constantines instead. But honestly, what the hell are you doing reading the Douglas College paper if you're from UBC? Go read the *Ulyssey*, damnit—it's better.

Anyway, the Cons are indeed playing the Pit on the 14th, but the rest of us poor non-UBCers can catch them on the 15th at the Media Club. I don't know who's opening, but no, it's probably not the Weakerthans. Get over it you whiny emo sissies. Frankly, Reconstruction Site was boring. Sue me.

After seeing the Cons plan to join me in a two-week hibernation, since nothing too special

seems to be happening. Do be sure to set your alarm clock for January 28th, however, so that you can head back to the Railway to see Jonathan Inc., In Media Res, and almost-famous Victoria indie-rockers Immaculate Machine. Their recent debut LP *Ones and Zeroes*, by the way, totally rules, and their live show is dope bananas. Plus, since it's at the Rail, you know that cover will probably be either under \$10 bucks, or somewhere under a table, depending on which dude is working the door. Cheap beer, too.

However, if you're one of those dudes who digs the electronica, Mark Farina is doing a set at the Commodore that same night. Tickets are around \$40, which leads me to my next point. Fuck electronica. If a DJ set is gonna be that expensive, I'll just pour maple syrup over a couple of old Paul Oakenfold LPs and see how they sound on my turntable. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.

January 31st, however, is shaping up to be a bit of a tough call. Wilco frontman and principle singer-songwriter Jeff Tweedy will be playing a solo show (with Wilco drummer Glenn Kotche opening, how very... solo) at the Commodore, while the same night, local alt-rock/roots/country/awesomeness legends-to-be Ox play the Railway with Kingsway in support. Frankly, I love my Wilco, but \$35 is just too much to see just two-fifths of that band. I'll wait till the next full tour I think, and toss my eight bucks in with Ox. Besides, Mark Browning is just so darned cute, and we'll finally get to hear some tracks off their new upcoming album *Burn Out*, which I've been waiting for since *Dust Bowl Revival*. Yeah, that's what I'm gonna do. Yeah. What a way to end the first month of 2006.

So you see, January isn't all bad. Just keep your tuque on tight and your iPod even tighter, and you should be just fine.

What's Going Down

Movies

Hostel

Directed by Eli Roth

Three backpackers head to a Slovakian city that promises to meet their hedonistic expectations, with no idea of the hell that awaits them. Apparently the grossest film ever, it will make you think twice before trying to save money while traveling.

Now Playing

The New World

Starring Colin Farrell

A chronicle of the adventurous life of Captain John Smith (Farrell), who helped settle the colony of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, and his relationship with Pocahontas (Kilcher), the young Algonquian native who Smith claimed saved him from sure death. Like Pocahontas, but without wacky animals and singing.

January 13

Glory Road

Starring Josh Lucas

Texas Western coach Don Haskins (Lucas) and his all-black starting five head to the NCAA tournament in 1966. True story, I guess.

January 13

Music

Music

Go check out Kevin Lalonde's January breakdown!

Theatre

Urinetown, The Musical

A musical parody of everything from corporate greed to musical theatre.

Firehall Arts Theatre

January 11–28

Tix and info, call 604.689.0926

Any Number Can Die

Comedic takeoff on 1920's mystery plays.

The ACT in Maple Ridge

Tix \$20, call 604.476.2787

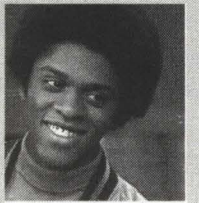
The Hungry Season

Story of missionary workers returning home to a family that no longer knows them.

Pacific Theatre

January 27–February 25

Tix \$14–28, call 604.731.5518



Jumping the Shark: TV phenomena revealed

By Iain Reeve, OP Kiddy Pool Jumper



Television is a funny place my friends. For a couple generations now the fictional television program has been the primary source of entertainment for the bored, tired, or indifferent masses of our society. From half hour situation comedies such as *Beverly Hillbillies* and *Seinfeld* to hour-long subject dramas like *MacGyver* or *CSI*, we have all had our fair share of favourites over the years.

However, we have all also had the misfortune of watching our favourite shows steadily decline in quality, realism, and, most importantly, entertainment. Like an old relative that slowly loses the ability to do all the things they were once known so well for, we sit back—confused about whether we should hope for them to continue on, living

off their past glory, or to just die peacefully without further pain to themselves and us. Perhaps the most human impulse, as with elderly relatives, is to hide the show where we cannot see it and ignore the fact that it exists. This is easily done by changing the channel to a younger, better show. The difficult thing is knowing when to do this before we become attached to the new, lesser version of our old show. Fortunately for you, faithful OP reader, I have the answer.

In the 1990s a group of scientists and academics, armed with the best detection equipment in the world and over 200 taped episodes of *Happy Days*, collaborated in a secret bunker hidden two miles beneath the earth's surface to develop a hypothesis which could be used to detect the point at which TV shows begins to collapse. Actually that's all a bunch of hooey. It was, in fact, a bunch of net nerds who in the late 90s, armed with both their computers and far too much time, realised that *Happy Days* really started to lick after Fonzie jumped a shark on water skis. They noticed how the show had, up to this point, been a somewhat realistic show based on the day-to-day trials and tribulations of the Cunningham family. Now, suddenly the show focused on the Fonzie and his increasingly unlikely stunts. Hey, everybody loves the Fonzie, but you can't eat steak everyday my friends.

So in no time the nerds had realised *Happy Days* wasn't alone. Almost all our favourite—and least favourite—shows had jumped the shark (JTS) at some point, metaphorically speaking. Of course very few shows have actually had characters jumping a shark, but the term has become a catch-all for any major change that happens to a show followed by a marked decrease in quality. This type of change comes in many forms. Like with the original, it can include a major change of the show's focus, or a realistic show moving away from reality. Many of you no doubt remember how *Family Matters* got lame after Urkel became the main focus, but how it was sheer crap after he started transforming into Stefan Urquelle, destroying the show's believability. Of course the most infamous move towards weird was the downhill slide *The Flintstones* took after the arrival of the Great Gazoo.

Major changes to the characters and setting are also telltale JTS moments. Moving to another city, going to college, main characters leaving the show, having another baby, kids going through puberty—these all spell surefire death for a stable, popular TV show. Different actors for the same character, excessive guest stars, acting on long built sexual tension, the appearance of Ted McGinley, basically anything to shake up the plot equals massive failure.

But with the impossibility of keeping everything the same, is every show doomed to failure?

Yes. But some shows are very good at slowing things down. The best: *The Simpsons*.

Probably the most vocal, volatile, and contentious JTS debate is over when the great pillar of Sunday night comedy took a turn for the worst. The most organized source of such debate is no doubt the venerable www.jumptheshark.com, a site where every show you can think of is given a list of popularly perceived jump points. For *The Simpsons*, the list is extensive. While many argue the show is still going strong, others target specific seasons, the departure of Conan O'Brien, the death of Phil Hartman, or the several instances in the show where characters have actually jumped the shark. For my money, the beginning of the end of the once great comedy giant was in season ten when they started having an excessive number of over-featured guest stars as opposed to occasional and subtle use, like Kelsey Grammer's brilliant early turns as Sideshow Bob. But that's just me.

In the interest of fairness, it is worth mentioning a converse movement to JTS. "Growing the Beard," referring to the beard of one Commander William T. Riker of the USS Enterprise 1701-D, indicates changes that herald an increase in the quality of a show. Such occurrences are rare indeed.

So there you have it; a set of ideas on how to avoid the lame final seasons of your former favourite show. If you want more tips or examples check out www.jumptheshark.com or the jumping the shark article on Wikipedia. Until then, happy shark jumping TV fiends! Or in the eternal words of The Fonzie: Aaaay!

EVENTS CALENDAR

Raise Money for the Cuban 5 Freedom Fund!

Garage Sale Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, January 14

Time: 11am – 4pm

Location: Grandview Park on Commercial Drive, Vancouver

* Organized by the Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver

Author and Activist Mel Hurtig Speaks on Canada, Missile Defense, and the Federal Elections

Date: Wednesday, January 18

Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm

Venue: Kitsilano Secondary School Auditorium (2550 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver)

* Part of the World Peace Forum Peace Dialogue Series

Labour Market Research Workshop

Date: Wednesday Jan 18, 2006

Location: Central Branch, Vancouver Public Library - 350 West Georgia Street

Contact: 604-331-3612 to register.

* These workshops are free and open to any individuals who are unemployed and legally able to work in Canada

Stop the Canadian War Drive!

Student Week Against War and Occupation – IV

Date: January 23 – 27th

Location: Douglas College

Contact: douglasagainstar@gmail.com for more information or to get involved

* Organized by Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO)

VIBC Bhangra Photo Art Exhibit

An exhibit featuring images of the Indian dance form, Bhangra, and Punjabi life

Date: Monday January 16 to Monday Jan 30, 2006

Location: Moat Gallery, Library Square – Downtown Vancouver

Contact: Manjot Bains (604) 339-5466

* Presented by the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society as part of the VIBC 2006

The War on Error:

Miner tragedy exposes mass media's major flaws

Brandon Ferguson, OP Camp Counsellor



The year 2005 will be remembered for many things: Pope John Paul II dies (and very nearly enters sainthood the same day); Hurricane Katrina devastates the deep south of America (and very nearly ends the reign of the Bush administration); and Iraqis hold a free vote for the first time in a long time (and very nearly makes a difference in insurgent attacks).

2005 was a year of shocking imagery and shaky information. The Pope may or may not be dead, but still 4 million marched on the Vatican Square. Katrina may or may not have been predictable, but still three-quarters of New Orleans was flooded by disease-ridden water. And Iraqis may or may not have achieved democracy, but still, for a minute there, it felt like it.

2006 kicked off with more imagery and information, in the form of 13 unlucky miners trapped 2 miles deep in a West Virginian mine shaft. For 41 hours, family, friends, strangers and officials worked tirelessly, wrestling with either emotional fits of worry or hurried feats of engineering. The rest of us just watched.

That's a bit of a fib, actually; on the day the fateful news came to the surface that 12 miners had perished, I had just finished watching a *Surreal Life* marathon and was doing some last minute channel surfing before my bed or the couch cushion came calling.

Suddenly, breaking news.

"12 Miners Found Alive," the bottom screen banner screamed. "That's awesome," I thought, bearing in mind that this was the same day that 18,360 Vancouverites had mercilessly booed 18- and 19-year-old American kids in favour of Russian hockey players at GM Place. Americans are our buddies, even if they're bloody stupid as an electorate. And so, Katrina in mind, I felt some happiness for the Yanks that they'd finally caught a break. A miracle, even. People do not often walk out of exploded mines. Ask China.

I kept surfing.

Three zombie-like hours later, I was awaiting Jon Stewart, Peter Griffin, or even Bender and a talking lobster to entertain me when more breaking news scrolled across the bottom screen banner of CNN, home of bottom feeder banter.

"12 Miners Found Dead," it read.

"What?" I thought. "That's tragic, but hardly unexpected. Still, that's so...sad."

There on the screen, standing before a false full moon of floodlights, was Anderson Cooper, the intrepid hurricane reporter, he of the yellow raincoat and boyish good looks. Standing beside him, a downcast mother with two small

children not a flailing palm tree.

She wanted to know why; why would you put out the information that the miners were alive, only to rip the families' heart out again?

"How could you put out information that wasn't true?" she asked, her voice half-full of rage, half-empty through emotional exhaustion.

It was a good question. Another one: why are you leeches even there in this, the worst hour of so many people's lives? Because producers knew it would fill at least 48 hours of incessant "news" coverage? Maybe more?

Anderson Cooper stammered. The acclaimed Katrina correspondent now found himself in the eye of a very real storm. Cooper stuttered and muttered something about the information...the miscommunication...it must have come from the hospital...a doctor, perhaps...some kind of mistake between the mine and the hospital...we were acting in good faith.

He stammered, not only on behalf of himself but on behalf of American media. How can you cover 24 hours of news and not tell a single story from Swahili or Samoa or even Venice or Genoa? In 24 hours, can't you give us more?

At the hastily assembled press conference with

International Coal Group President, Ben Hatfield, only one of the first dozen questions asked was about the miners.

"They had gone to where they felt was safer, built a crude barricade, and put on their self-contained breathing apparatuses."

This is the imagery that conveys the information we need; this is the haunting news story. Twelve men, huddled together, keeping each other strong and alert as best they can, awaiting inevitability, praying for a miracle, doing what they can to return to those they love.

When events like this happen, it is the imagery that more accurately captures the information. After the "governor's thumbs up" and the "church bells ringing" signaled a modern-day miracle—perhaps the handiwork of John Paul II, which would be his first recorded miracle—it should be the powerful imagery of 12 men working together, trapped together, that tells the sadness of this story. This is the news. Not the Manhunt for Miscommunication. Not this War on Error.

Every other question at the press conference wanted to know the precise point of the miscommunication. Where did it come from, because it certainly couldn't have come from the media. Which is probably true. However, once it's out there, on the air, it can't be taken back. As Hatfield pointed out, "no official statement was ever given saying that the miners were alive." But that doesn't matter. We've got sponsors to think of while we're still in prime-time on the West Coast.

It was after 3 am in West Virginia when Hatfield made another sobering remark, in response to another question about the faulty information (how can reporters do their job when given bad info? I dunno...dig deeper, maybe?).

"Three hours ago," he told three dozen microphones, "we would have been thrilled to learn of one survivor."

Ben Hatfield is going to be the villain in this case. He's the sacrificial lamb. Not because he caused the explosion; not because he didn't dig faster; he will be strung up and hung out to dry because we need blood, as if enough isn't already being spilled worldwide.

Eighteen months ago, I attended a press junket function where Premier Gordon Campbell was declaring some marshy bog in Pitt Meadows a protected area. Three television cameras and a half-dozen reporters crammed the tiny stage and clamored over each other for the best shot, the first question, the fourth estate. Standing to the side in a Mickey Mouse sweater and four days of stubble, I felt suffocated.

Now imagine that mob times a thousand on the day a loved one of yours died after two days of uncertainty and unknowing.

Now imagine being trapped two miles down a collapsed mine shaft.

In the madness for information we've forgotten the sadness of imagery.

"I ask you to please not be harsh with the people who worked so hard here tonight," said Governor Joe Manchin, who had spent all night with the families. "Right now, these people and the families are going through more pain than you can ever imagine."

He was talking to the media.

Coquitlam Book Swap Owns New West Bulletin Boards

By Brady Ehler, Coquitlam Rep.

It's a brand new semester, and you know what that means: either paying the ridiculous full price for the latest edition of your required course texts, or buying them (or a slightly older edition) for the much less ridiculous used price. Any student worth their salt will tell you that the cheapest way to get used book is to avoid the bookstores and buy directly from a student. Buying student direct has three important advantages: you save money, the student you buy your book from gets a better price, and it can be very difficult to find the used text you're looking for at the book store.

Unfortunately, there is a disadvantage to buying student direct—one must track down the right books.

For New West students, selling books without the middle-man can be a huge pain in the ass. If you don't know someone offhand that has the book that you are looking for, then one must rifle through the daunting mess of hundreds of flyers tacked to bulletin boards. Even worse, if you are looking to sell your texts, then you have to print out the flyers, get them stamped at the Students' Union Building, and try to find a space on one of the designated bulletin boards; onto which, of course, you must fixate your flyer with tacks as staples are not allowed; and if your flyers do not have stamps, are posted onto the wrong bulletin board, or are fixated with staples, they will promptly be torn down.

Coquitlam students have a much easier time with it. At the David Lam Campus, at the beginning of each semester, tables are set up in the concourse with well-organized lists of student-owned used books which display the name of the text, the course number, and the telephone number of the student selling the book. Yep, right there in the concourse, where any student can just walk up, scratch in their name and the text they have for sale, and simply wait for a buyer to phone them up on their cell phone. If you are looking to buy a text book, it takes five minutes to determine whether or not the book

you are looking for is for sale, instead of frustrating hours rooting through bulletin boards. After the first week of classes, most of the tables are folded up, but one remains in the adjacent hallway, for those late in buying (or selling) their books.

The state of student bookselling in New West was not always so grim. Until 2003, there was a used book consignment in the Students' Union Building. Here is how it worked: the student would fill out some forms, give their books to the consignment office, and when another student bought the books, the first

student returned to the office for his or her money.

Ironically, Coquitlam set up the vastly superior book swap system because there was no place at David Lam for a book consignment office. The consignment system was eventually discontinued because of costs and an excess of paperwork, but the Coquitlam book swap is still going strong. You may be asking yourself why the New West campus doesn't adopt a similar book swap; New West has a sufficiently big concourse, so why not do the students a favor and clean up the bulletin

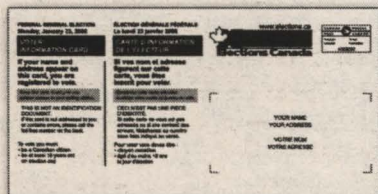
boards in the process?

When I asked members of the Students' Union, I didn't get a clear answer. There was some talk of no hallway to put the tables in after the first week of classes, but surely there must be space somewhere—after all, the Coquitlam campus has no trouble finding the space, and it is a mere fraction of the size of the New West Campus.

In any case, if anyone out there is sold on my little rant, you can start a petition at the Student's Union Building.



YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE?



Voter information card

Keep the voter information card we sent you. It has all the information you'll need to vote, and you'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and be at least 18 years old on election day.

If you haven't received your voter information card, or if you received it but found an error in your name or address, please contact your local Elections Canada office now. You'll find the telephone number at www.elections.ca by clicking on the Voter Information Service icon.

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23, VOTE.

www.elections.ca

1 800 463-6868 toll-free in Canada and the United States
001 800 514-6868 toll-free in Mexico

TTY 1 800 361-8935 for people who are deaf or hard of hearing
toll-free in Canada and the United States or (613) 991-2082 from anywhere

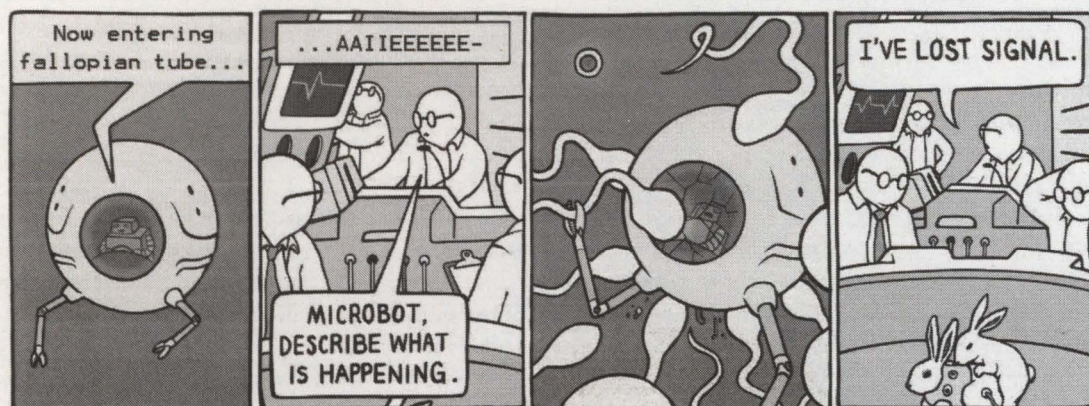


MEDIUM LARGE by Francesco Marciuliano

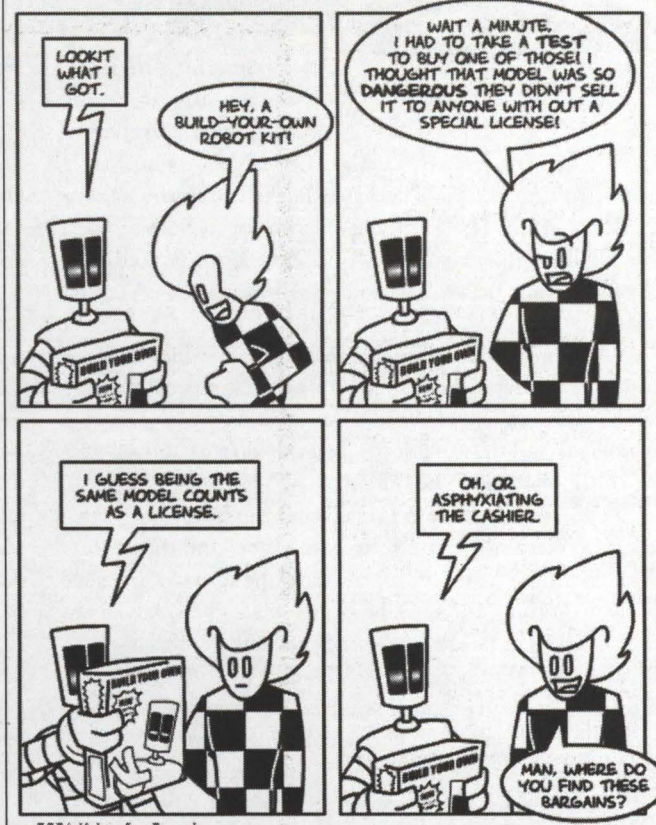


Perry Bible Fellowship

Nicolas Gurewitch

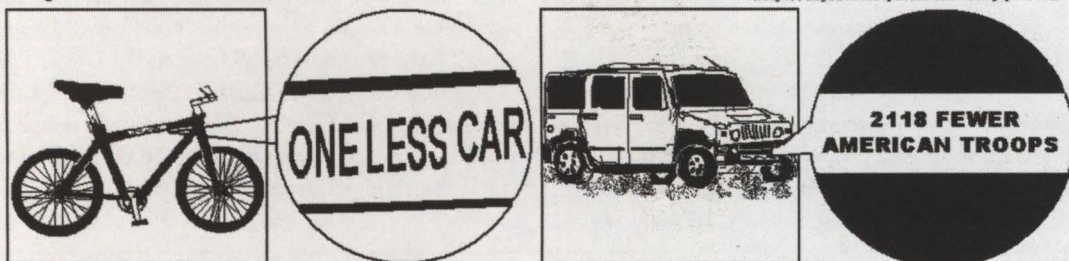


CHECKERBOARD NIGHTMARE by Kristofer Straub



Major Studio Production by Vince Via

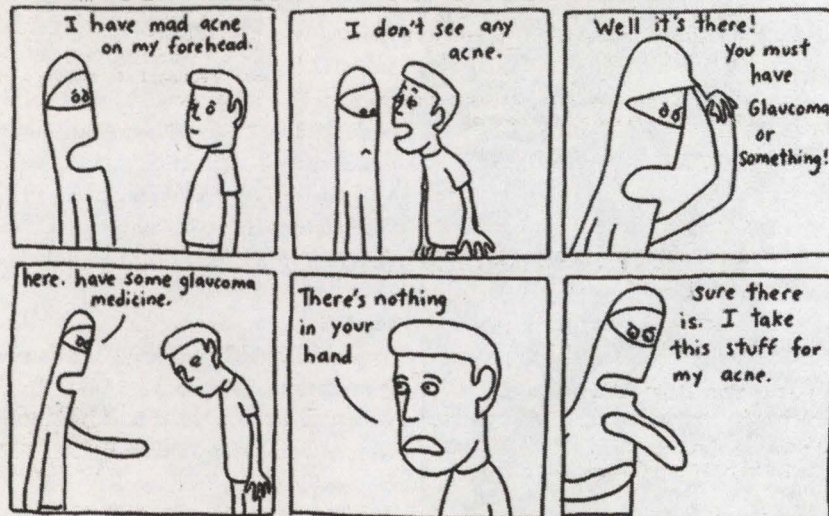
<http://majorstudioproduction.blogspot.com>



* as of January 5, 2006

white ninja

by Scott Bevan



PROMISCUITY WITH DIGNITY COMICS

By
SirTrevor
Hargreaves



Greatness Among Us

By Brian McLennon, OP Sports Editor



In the midst of the hustle and bustle of returning students, 12 men among us are pushing their way towards creating a legacy and claiming bragging rights for another year. During the first week of January, Douglas College played host to the Canadian National Wheelchair Basketball team's national training camp. The team was in town for five days to prepare for the upcoming 2006 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships that will be held in Amsterdam this coming July.

After gold medal performances in the Sydney and Athens Paralympics games, Team Canada is currently the number one ranked team in world—ahead of the Australians and the Americans, and this doesn't sit well with our cousins south of the border.

The grudge between Canada and the US extends far beyond political topics of softwood lumber and the export of cattle. In the world of sports, the Americans 'don't take kindly' to sniffing the arses of their Canadian cousins in any sport other than hockey. As witnessed in the critically acclaimed MTV movie, *Murderball*, the Americans dislike of losing to Canada is deep seeded. Let's face it, Canadians (especially now) are more like the likeable skinny little brother of the school yard bully. We're allowed to get away with snubbing the Americans and telling them "No" when we want to and yet we have the luxury of immunity; nobody in the school yard will dare touch us for fear of repercussion from our big brother south of the border.

However, like all sibling rivalries, the rules are usually pretty cut and dry. You never embarrass your older siblings and always concede defeat when competing directly against them. Well, Team Canada has busted these rules wide open.

The rivalry began back in 2002 when Team USA defeated Team Canada in the 2002 World Championships' semi-final in Osaka, Japan. "It took them triple overtime and it was one of the two times they have been defeated in the past six years," said forward Adam Lancia. "We have to have a really bad game and they need to be hitting a lot of threes in order to win," he added.

One of the reasons that the Canadian Men's Wheelchair basketball team has been so successful is because of the depth of their talent. "We play all twelve guys and all of us contribute," commented David Eng, who is currently completing his graduate degree in Exercise Sciences at the University of Texas-Arlington.

Another reason for Canada's success is because they possess two of the best players in the game in Joey Johnson and Pat Anderson. These two goliaths of the sport display an exceptional level of athletic ability that tends to compli-

ment each other's game. It is plain and simple—Joey is huge! Standing at 6'2" and squeezing the scale at 230 lbs, his "Shaq" power and strength is athletic and solid with a surprisingly soft touch from as deep as 25'. He can post you up and take you outside.

Unlike Joey, Pat's physical stature is that of the stereotypical basketball player; with a 6'9" wing span and standing at 6'4", the athletically built 190 lb phenom has lightning quick reflexes and uncanny wheelchair agility. "He's definitely something to watch," said veteran guard Jaime Borisoff. "He's the best in the game."

In speaking with Pat, his demeanor and personality is one of silent confidence. The well spoken native of Fergus, Ontario, first realized his love for basketball in 1990. As a talented junior, his game escalated quickly, earning him a National membership since 1998. He has never looked back.

When asked about his billing by peers and the governing bodies of wheelchair basketball, he casually said, "I guess I realized when I was about 18 or 19 years old." The tone of the statement was very "matter of fact." There's no arrogance with this guy, no cockiness; but he's the type that will look you directly in your eyes and tell you with a straight face "You can't play me." I mean, this guy has more game than a Sony Playstation. You name it...he can do it. He'll squash a trey from deep behind the rainbow or a drive by and lay it up with grace and speed.

Like any elite team athlete at the top of his game, he must consciously make the decision of when to pass or take the shot himself. "Of course, there are times when I feel maybe I didn't assert my game enough.... However, there are also times when you must realize that, as a player, the team's advantage is not always with me scoring," he says.

"It can also depend on what the opponent is giving you. For instance, the Dutch tend to pack in the key forcing you to make outside shots. I can live with that because I know I can make those shots. Then there are other teams

that will spread their defense allowing either myself, Joey, Adam or David to get on the inside."

When asked if it all becomes too much for him, he ponders the thought carefully, his eyes searching downward as if he was looking inside himself and wondering whether he should show a sign of weakness. Careful and precisely, he answers, "Sometimes it's challenging."

The words are calculating and concise, just like the shot that has been dropped on many opponents domes over his illustrious career.

For the first time in his career, Pat says he's seen a "leveling" in his game. Even though he never used the 'P' word, his statement whispered what no athlete at the top of his game wants to hear...Plateau.

"I mean, every year I would see some kind of improvements in some part of my game," he assesses. His fingers drum anxiously against the off-white laminate of the cafeteria table. Is it simply the espresso shot he just threw back from the Latte bar, or is there something more? "However, lately I feel that I have been coming in doing the same things."

His demeanor changes and there's an uneasiness. You can see his mind is at work; the little Windows hourglass icon is flipping and flipping in his mind. He is searching. What are the new challenges? What new obstacles can he overcome?

"I mean..." he starts. "It's just that..." he continues, but never finishes his words.

With two Paralympics gold medals and a handful of MVP awards, he says he could walk away from it all and he would feel fulfilled with what he has accomplished. "I've won a couple of gold medals and have played professional for awhile. I would have no problem feeling happy with what I have accomplished," he says.

For Pat and Team Canada, the next tournament is February in Osaka, Japan. There, they will match up again with their cousins from south of the border and again, he states reassuringly, "we will be successful."

UPCOMING GAMES



Upcoming Games
January 11-17, 2006

Fri. Jan. 13
Basketball vs UCFV (New West Campus)
Women 6pm, Men 8pm
Volleyball @ UCFV (Abbotsford, BC)
Women 6pm, Men 7:30pm
Wrestling @ Golden Bear Open (Edmonton, AB)

Sat. Jan. 14
Basketball vs UCFV (New West Campus)
Women 6pm, Men 8pm
Volleyball @ UCFV (Abbotsford, BC)
Women 6pm, Men 7:30pm

Wrestling @ Golden Bear Open (Edmonton, AB)

Classifieds

Submit Classifieds to classifieds at othereditor@yahoo.ca

Students advertise for free!

For free student classifieds up to 30 words, email: othereditor@yahoo.ca with your name, student number, and desired section, and put "classified" in the subject line.

Fast Cash Ads: 3 lines, 3 times for \$20 (30 words max). Open rate of \$5 per line. Enquiries: call our advertising manager at 604.525.3542.

Pictures

Classified pictures are \$10 each printing. The picture size is 3.5cm x 2.5cm, black and white.

When placing an ad please remember...

All ads must be received by Thursday to be published in the following Wednesday's paper. Check your ad for errors and please call or email our offices to report any corrections. To ensure the integrity of our student newspaper, we reserve the right to revise, reclassify, edit, or refuse your ad.

For Sale

Two 128MB Memory Modules

184PIN DDR PC2100 DIMM
With original packages.
A Steal at \$45! E-Mail me at email@scottelliott.com.

1980 Honda CB650

parts, \$5 and up. Email redcoat1812@hotmail.com.

Complete P4 system with 256MB DDR400, 80GB HDD, 16x DVD±RW & K/M/S for only \$399. FREE exchange K/M/S for 512MB RAM. Everything BRAND NEW. Contact Andre at acepc-canada@gmail.com if interested.

Herbal products to improve your health. Choose an alternative to conventional medicine. Safe and easy to use. Contact Alex at natural_cures@hotmail.com or

604.589.8728

God curse all you rotten crude people with your machetes, clubs, and guns whi have no other way to express yourselves other than battering some poor soul.

Services

Tutor/Proofreader (Ph.D) \$25/hour for essays, thesis, etc. 604.837.1016 or editor888@hotmail.com.

Professional tutor, writing coach, and editor can help with English 130, 106, 112, and 109; also Business Communications, reports, letters, and résumés. Quality guaranteed. The Writer's Touch, www.writer-stouch.net 604.437.6069.

Vancouver Support group for stutterers. Every alternate Friday, 7-9pm. Room 4310, New West campus. For more info, contact Mary Rose Labandelo: 604.526.1735

Wanted

OPTions for Sexual Health (formerly Planned Parenthood) is looking for volunteers to assist on the Facts of Life Line, a toll-free, confidential, sexual health information and referral resource line. Call 604.731.4552 ext. 224, or visit www.optionsforsexualhealth.com.

AVID HALO 2 PLAYER. Need to have Halo2 game and XBOX Live. Please contact by email. Jamie Campbell. Jamie Campbell12345@hotmail.com

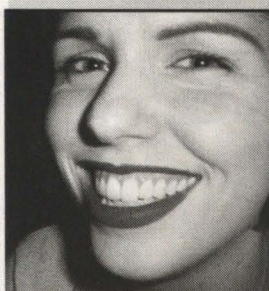
WATER POLO Players Wanted
Students interested in participating in Intramural/Varsity Douglas Water Polo call: (604)777-6029(ext.# 3) or email:sessionpolo@yahoo.ca for more information.

Teach English Overseas



- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Job Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD
SEMINARS
780-428-8700 / 1-800-779-1779
www.oxfordseminars.com



Last Call

Amanda Aikman, OP Columnist



Welcome back.

While y'all gather your thoughts and prepare to write in for advice on all manner of crazy matters, I'll take this opportunity to serve up some unsolicited tips for living that occurred to me over the holidays.

So listen up people, this is good stuff. Follow these three simple steps and you are guaranteed to have a happier new year.

Eat More

Now, I'm as guilty as the next gal (and possibly even guiltier than that gal over there) when it comes to obsessing over calories and carbs and what have you. That's not to say I don't consume my share, but I do tend to natter on, much to the annoyance of my dining companions.

Well, enough is enough; it's only food. So just shut up and enjoy it already. Of course, I'm not saying to throw in the towel completely and embark on an exclusive diet of Big Macs and Cadbury Easter Creme Eggs, but seriously, there's no need to beat yourself up over the occasional indulgence.

And if you're in the market for an occasional indulgence, head over to Anton's Pasta Bar on East Hastings. Whoa, daddy, now that's a spicy meatball! I went there over the break, and I'm still working on my leftovers. You've never seen pasta served in such insane portions. I dare you to eat it in one sitting. Scratch that, I dare you to eat it in three sittings. Speaking of sittings, you'll want to get to Anton's early if you plan on getting one. That joint is lined up down the street mostly every night. Mmm, a giant plate of linguine and a giant glass of red wine—now that's amore.

Laugh More

Believe me, I've wasted too much of my life taking things seriously and letting the bastards grind me down—it ain't worth it. So, learn from my mistakes and lighten up,

already.

There're all kinds of opportunities for jocularly out there. You've got your comedy clubs, your America's Funniest Home Videos, and even your nitrous oxide. But forget about all that, 'cuz there's a new sheriff in town, and he'll have you in stitches in no time flat (from laughter, not police brutality). And what, pray tell, is so funny? Well, it's the super terrific hilarity of The Ricky Gervais Show.

It's not a television show, or stand up, it's a podcast available for download on iTunes. And, Oh...My...God is it funny. The show consists of Ricky Gervais and collaborator Stephan Merchant, the comedic geniuses behind BBC's The Office, chatting with the ridiculously hilarious Karl Pilkington. Eventually, there will be 12 episodes available, and believe me, you will never get tired of listening to them. So bloody funny.

Love More

Open your mind, your heart, your legs—however you want to interpret it.

Life is too short to waste time holding back, so what are you waiting for? This year, feel everything there is to feel and experience everything there is to experience. Let yourself love people and let them love you in return. Make it your goal to forge genuine connections with people, because this is it—this is your life. It doesn't start next week or next year or after you graduate, it's happening now, so don't settle for that "life half-lived" bullshit. No sir. Turn that bull around, take it firmly by the horns, and go for it. Ole!

True, an open heart is a more vulnerable one, but even when you're wallowing in the depths of love's lowest lows, the memories of its highest highs are worth the suffering. So put this paper down and go spend some time with someone you love. I think I'll do the same. See you next week.

lastcall_op@yahoo.ca

Federal Election 2006

All Candidates Forums

Burnaby - New Westminster Riding

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Concourse, New Westminster Campus

New Westminster - Coquitlam Riding

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Concourse, New Westminster Campus

Port Moody - Westwood - Port Coquitlam Riding

Thursday, January 12, 2006

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Atrium, David Lam Campus

For more information, please call 604.527.5111 or 604.527.5113.

Douglas Students' Union
Canadian Federation of Students Local 18